

RADIO STAMPS
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Hello again, and welcome back to another edition of Radio Stamps. A special welcome if you're listening for the first time.

Radio Station Meter Stamps

This is program 17 and the subject today is the fun of collecting radio station meter stamps. For most of us, a meter stamp is what we often see on business mail instead of a postage stamp. At first glance these postage meter impressions, usually in red, may not seem too interesting. A second glance may reveal a philatelic treasure for your radio stamps collection.

We all know about collecting postage stamps. We trade with friends or correspondents around the world. We also browse through the stock of stamp dealers with our checklists, or buy from dealers through the mail. But what about meter stamps? Where do you find them?

Collecting tip number 1 today is to check your mailbox. Yes, its true, one of the best places to find meter stamps on the topic of radio is right in your very own mailbox. If you send reception reports to your favourite stations, or write for program schedules, then you're certainly receiving mail from those very same stations. Few radio stations today use postage stamps. It takes less time and trouble to zing an envelope through a postage meter machine than it does to put on the latest postage stamp.

At first, these dull, all-to-business like envelopes, with red meter stamps, look the same. There is none of the colour, or the variety, beauty and sense of personal adventure when you receive an envelope with a meter stamp on it. No one took the time to put a real stamp on it did they!

Now's the time to take a another look at meter stamps. The next time you get an envelope in your mailbox from a radio station, check it carefully. Once you're familiar with meter stamps, you'll discover that some of them are real gems, and certainly valuable additions to your radio stamps collection. They'll also add variety to your philatelic collection.

Meter Stamp Examples

When there's no postage stamp to commemorate a radio station, or

a radio anniversary, look for a meter stamp to fill the gap in your collection. Here are a few examples. Although Radio Jordan has never been featured on a commemorative postage stamp, the station uses a meter stamp with its name. Similarly, you won't find Radio Nacional de Espana on a postage stamp, but there is a meter stamp you can collect. Another good example was the 50th anniversary of the BBC monitoring service in 1989. There wasn't a postage stamp to honour this important anniversary, but there was a special meter stamp.

You can also find meter stamps with radio station logos or slogans to compliment the postage stamps in your collection. Look for meter stamps too that promote specific radio programs or radio personalities. If you want to specialize, there are many radio subjects that can be found on meter stamps, from radio clubs to radio equipment. Collecting radio stamps, including meter stamps, is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

December Contest

Next month, in December, I'll have a contest, for the 60th anniversary of HCJB, to win the world's first radio station stamp. The prize for this worldwide contest will be the 1919 Guatemala stamp, in mint condition, that I described on the October program. I hope you'll be listening for this 60th anniversary contest, on the first Saturday of December here on HCJB.

That's all for today's program. If you have news about a new radio stamp, please write and let me know. I'd be glad to include it in an upcoming program. Your news for the program, and your suggestions for improvements, are always welcome. Thank you this month to Norman Hill of Arlington, Virginia, in the United States, for news about a new set of 5 U.S. stamps honouring comedians. Jack Benny and other comedians, heard around the world on radio, are featured. I'll have more news about this next month.

Here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. The address again is...

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.